

REMARKS

The indication of allowability of the subject matter of Claims 4-24, 26-30, 32-25, and 38 is noted. By this amendment, the rejected claims have been canceled or made dependent upon one of these claims indicated as allowable but rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and to be in independent form. Accordingly, these claims should now be clearly allowable. Additionally, newly added independent Claims 42 and 47 include features of originally presented claims which were indicated as allowable, and therefore these claims should also be clearly allowable, as well as their dependent claims.

Lastly, the method Claims 48 and 49 recite the method of integrally molding the components in the respective assemblies of Claims 25 and 29, and therefore likewise should be in clearly allowable form.

As noted above, responsive to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, the claims have been reformulated to avoid the objected to language of original Claim 1.

With respect to the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based upon Fischer et al. (U.S. Patent 5,507,423), it is submitted that no further comments are necessary at this time in view of the reformulation of the claims to include only subject matter indicated as allowable in the Office Action.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and favorable action on all of the claims is in order and respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #02898751730US).

October 25, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Vincent J. Sunderdick", is written over a horizontal line.

Donald D. Evenson

Registration No. 26,160

Vincent J. Sunderdick

Registration No.: 29,004

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
DDE:alw